



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Navajo Nation Council approves supplemental funding for Navajo chapters**

**WINDOW ROCK** – During a special session held on Wednesday, the Navajo Nation Council voted 14-0 to approve Legislation No. 0027-14, to provide supplemental funding from the Navajo Nation’s Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance for various renovation and repair projects at several sites throughout the Nation.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Charles Damon II (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí’, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) urged his Council colleagues to pass the bill to assist with what he described as “dire” conditions at several chapter facilities.

“The chapters are really in dire need of [funding] to begin renovations this summer. If we approve this today, they’ll start right away and possibly within six months they should be ready to have people move back into those chapters,” said Delegate Damon.

Delegate Damon also stated that President Ben Shelly has been waiting “for some time” for the legislation to make its way through the legislative process.

Council Delegate Lorenzo Curley (Houck, Klagnetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins) advocated for the Tsé Si áni Chapter which he represents, explaining that damaged roofing has led to a buildup of mold and mildew resulting from roof leaks.

The legislation initially sought \$90,000 for Tsé Si áni Chapter for roof repairs, \$600,000 for Chichiltah Chapter for renovations, and \$300,000 for Chilchinbeto Chapter for the planning and design of a new chapter house.

However, Council on Wednesday also passed a total of four amendments

Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin) proposed three of the four amendments which included \$500,000 for the architectural design of a new governmental complex in Oljato, \$75,000 for a chain-link fence at Navajo Preparatory School, and approximately \$180,000 for a multi-purpose modular unit for the Cameron Chapter.

The other amendment, proposed by Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) sought \$150,000 for the planning, engineering, and construction of a waterline extension for the Newcomb Chapter.

On Feb. 4, the Budget and Finance Committee also considered the bill and referred it to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee with a "do pass" recommendation along with one amendment to include \$135,000 for the planning and design of a new chapter house for the Mexican Springs community.

President Shelly will have 10 calendar days to consider the bill once it is sent to the Office of the President and Vice President.

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